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PATENT
Docket No.: W5020.128/P128

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
MICHAEL A. WATERS

Serial No.: 08/997,879

Art Unit: 3616

Filed: December 24, 1997

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: AUTOMATED SELF-CLEANING LITTER BOX FOR CATS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- x 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. No certification or fee is required. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final rejection or Notice of Allowance. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c).

- _____ a. I hereby certify that each item or information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).
- _____ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).
- _____ c. Attached is our check in the amount of _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-1073 as needed to ensure consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.
- _____ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage, AND after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of _____ in payment of the petition fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 04-1073 as needed to ensure consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.
- _____ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).
- _____ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

____ 4. Translations of the non-English language references are enclosed.

____ full

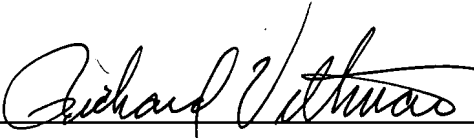
____ partial

____ summary/abstract

____ 5. A copy of a foreign application communication from a related foreign application discussing the relevancy of the references is attached.

Dated: April 30, 1998

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Richard Veltman

Registration No. 36,957

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